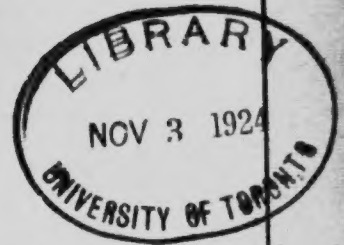


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Not for public awards in Annual

Not for a 1892 - This called upon my head

the motto of the Order



IMPRESSIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE  
Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire  
AND CHILDREN OF THE EMPIRE (Juvenile Branch)  
HELD AT TORONTO, MAY 27th-31st, 1918

BY

MRS. COLIN H. CAMPBELL,  
(i.e., Minnie Julia Beatrice Campbell)  
President of the Provincial Chapter of Manitoba





**Impressions of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Canadian  
National Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of  
the Empire and Children of the Empire (Juvenile  
Branch) by Mrs. Collin H. Campbell**

The eighteenth annual meeting marks the young womanhood of the Order. From Prince Edward Island to the Yukon it is a record of women's wondrous work. It is a record for I.O.D.E. archives and the archives of Canada, of which future generations will be justly proud.

It is not my intention to give a report of the week's sessions, pressed to overflowing with admirable addresses, reports of unsurpassed work, vast sums of money raised, personal services rendered, debates, animated and at times dissentient, all of which marked life, thought, growth and development. Reports of addresses, reports of chapters and the meeting will in due time reach you from National Headquarters.

I desire rather to touch on a few facts of national history recorded this year, and the things of vital moment which make this meeting a record breaker and mark ten years of progress achieved in one.

**Historic Notes-**

|                                                                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Chapters in the Order today.....                                                    | 700            |
| Organized this year .....                                                           | 104            |
| Total membership .....                                                              | 15,000         |
| Provincial Chapters (only) .....                                                    | 4              |
| Total amount raised this year .....                                                 | \$2,500,000.00 |
| Total amount raised since war .....                                                 | 4,400,000.00   |
| Books presented to foreign schools this<br>year, representing 300 libraries (books) | 45,000         |
| Amount spent in books and pictures .....                                            | \$4,258.39     |

Provincial Chapters organized have this year contributed as follows:

|                                             |              |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| New Brunswick, 22 chapters, 1000 members... | \$ 40,000.00 |
| Manitoba, 76 chapters, 3,214 members.....   | 129,000.00   |
| British Columbia, 4,000 members .....       | 107,000.00   |
| Saskatchewan, 3,300 members .....           | 109,000.00   |

Contributed as follows from provinces under National Chapter's jurisdiction:

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Ontario .....              | \$184,282.00 |
| Nova Scotia .....          | 31,297.00    |
| Yukon .....                | 11,620.00    |
| Prince Edward Island ..... | 2,734.00     |

One may compute figures but who can estimate the good our money has done in ameliorating the horrors of war for our brave defenders and their Allies? Who can set a value on personal services rendered our soldier and his dependents at home? Who can tell how greatly our Order has trained our members for national service?

If politics are kept out of our Order I foresee it to be one of the greatest avenues of national service possible, both now and after the war. It is the unwritten law, but should be written large in both our charter and constitution.

#### **Organization of Provincial Chapters.**

The fact that the notice of resolutions received by all Chapters in March from National Headquarters announcing that the president strenuously advocated the organization of Provincial Chapters, etc., was very gratifying to many advocates of the same. This public announcement from our first officer gave hope that a broader vision of our Order animated the National Executive. "Organize before next annual meeting" was the president's expressed wish. This is possible and will give a great impetus to our Order.

"Ontario the last," was suggested by the President, but was received coldly by Ontario women, notwithstanding the kindly remarks that the National Executive meetings were always open to Regents for advice and help. Some thought there was no occasion for Ontario to organize until the last. Other Ontario women could see no charter or constitutional right to deter that province any longer if two-thirds of the members were ready to organize. Lady Kingsmill, regent of The Laurentian Chapter, Ontario, championed organization at an early date by the unanimous voice of her chapter, which previous to the annual meeting had sent a resolution to the National Executive praying that Ontario be organized. A lively discussion followed. There were two opinions. One satisfied soul "was content as at

present"; but quickly changed her mind when it was pointed out in the discussion "that Manitoba, British Columbia, Quebec and other Canadian women had a share in looking after Ontario." This came as quite a surprise to many members and even some National Councillors for the first time realized that the National Executive was not composed of Toronto women alone!

To Lady Kingsmill was given the power of initiative re the Provincial Chapter of Ontario. Others who have sown good seed are Mrs. P. D. Crearer, regent Municipal Chapter of Hamilton, who in 1916-17 sent out circular letters re the same, and Mrs. Wm. Martin, president of Provincial Chapter of Saskatchewan, who in an able paper at the 1917-18 meeting at Victoria made a strong plea for a competent provincial organization in Canada.

The Daughters of Empire meet six times where provincially organized to the Ontario women's once, as there is only one annual meeting of the National Chapter in Toronto in two years. The Ontario women meet then with the delegates from 700 chapters in Canada; they never meet as Ontario women. The women of the other unorganized provinces fare worse, as they do not meet at all, unless a National annual meeting is held in their province. It is only by the women of each province getting together, getting to know each other, the needs of their own province, getting a provincial viewpoint, by organizing, managing and controlling their own affairs, electing their own officers, that the best results will accrue for Ontario or any other province, subject, of course, to our charter and constitution.

In our nine great provinces with the wondrous Yukon added, come problems that are varied because of our magnificent distances, our mixed population, our newly organized provinces with all the problems of an old civilization to solve; and the after-war problems will multiply fast for all. It is up to each province to study their own problems now. One of our great law lords of the Senate said to me: "Whatever imperial work you have to do, must be done by the women in their own province." Shall I tell you more? "In your charter you have no provincial rights. Go home and get a provincial charter; you can get it in twenty minutes."

When all the provinces are organized, as our President advocates, then indeed will our so-called National Chapter be national. It will be our advisor and helper; our high court of appeal. It will be free to inspire the national work and imperial ideals, and hold together as a unit the Daughters of the Empire. All hail the National Chapter of Canada! Women will learn then to respect other women's opinions, will honor workers for their work, will find much to admire and love in these splendid women who are laying foundation stones of Empire "well and truly" in our far-stretching Dominion of Canada, even to its very outposts.



## **The New Constitution.**

Our President's announcement that she would ask the National Chapter to appoint a committee to draft a New Constitution came as a surprise, but the members were ready for the idea. She announced some radical changes re the voting system, re Municipal Chapters and I expected to hear her advocate provincial rights in all provinces, all to be federated under the National Chapter of Canada. Coming home from the East, a Toronto lady (wearing a national life member's badge presented to her by the National Executive) on her way west for the summer, was advocating provincial rights in the Order. I asked had she discussed it with our president? I am wondering if this advance will not be the outcome of our new constitution? A committee consisting of five officers and one representative from each province has been constituted to draft the same. We await the results with the greatest interest.

## **Charter and Constitution.**

Charters may be amended just as well as constitutions. In fact, no charter can give us more rights than our constitution grants. Both are ours to make the most and best of for our country's weal. It is the privilege of the rank and file in the Primary Chapter to make suggestions which they think will make a bigger and better Order. Now is the time to speak, with a new constitution in hand. All suggestions coming from officers are what have largely been our procedure in times past, which has tended to make our Order too autocratic for the democracy it represents today. One of the law-makers of Canada, an eminent K.C., likened it to a misplaced pyramid. Do you think the great Pyramids of Egypt would have stood the test of time had they been placed on their apex? The Primary Chapters are the solid foundation of the Order. As long as they are willing to leave both suggestions and decisions to National Officers (or any other officers) there will be unrest and dissatisfaction. We will have only officers' viewpoint. They are not to blame. The ballot is ours!

Each chapter will nominate a representative from its own province to represent it in this committee, the one getting the most votes will be your representative. Consider well who will be most capable for deciding legal and constitutional points and realize their responsibilities to the membership of the Order. **Take this up at your next meeting and notify Mrs. George Hughes, Provincial Secretary, Provincial Headquarters, 306 Scott Block, Winnipeg.**

This new constitution to meet present day needs marks the greatest advancement in the Order. Do you remember the charters known as the Creighton Re-draft, 1916, which made allow-

ance for provincial rights, suggested by Manitoba women? It was looked on with disdain because it involved a new constitution.

### **"A Right to Her Opinion, Too."**

In her address of welcome, Mrs. Angus McMurchy, regent Municipal Chapter, of Toronto, struck the fine British note of free speech and action, when she said: "Let us remember in all of our deliberations that the other person 'has a right to her opinion, too.'" It is only by the free expression of our thoughts that the best results may be obtained. Like our Empire which is a commonwealth of free, self-governing nations, so our Order is a commonwealth of free, self-governing chapters. The National Chapter makes suggestions, but the Primary Chapters are at liberty to accept or decline them, no one saying 'You must!'"

This fine enunciation of the principles for which our Order stands, coming early in the meeting, gave the cue to the five days sessions. Never before in the courts of the I.O.D.E. was such freedom of expression of ideas and ideals heard, and marks the passing of the Order from childhood into her full young womanhood on this, her eighteenth birthday. In the 1916-17 meeting in Victoria, Mrs. W. D. Spence, of Calgary, gave a paper on "Loyalty to Kings, Empire and our Order," and that splendid advocate of the best for our Order in that fine address stated the time had come when we must stand, if we stood alone; we must speak and voice our ideas, the world need ideas; and we must act for the good of the cause. While her address came late in the meeting it made its impress.

### **Progress in Debate.**

Much progress in debate was marked by members voicing their opinions and **in helping to form public opinion so essential to our work.** Among the leaders is that splendid stalwart, Mrs. A. W. MacDugald, of Montreal, who has ever stood for principles effecting a larger viewpoint for the National Chapter. Miss Boulton, too, was heard to better advantage. She was seldom on the "defensive," "That reflects on our officers"; or "that reflects on the National Executive," and next year she may lead the "offensive." There were many new voices who ably discussed principles. The day of personalities is past.

As long as officers do the work and see no difference between a Credentials and a Scrutineers Committee, and as long as members do not demand a **properly constituted credentials committee by voting for a resolution asking for one** (a resolution which has been for years before the annual meeting), it is hopeless to expect one.

It is high time we conformed to the methods and procedure of other large bodies in this important matter for the credit of the Order and the satisfaction of its members.

### **National Councillors**

A list of 140 nominees for National Councillors was sent forth for the first time in the history of the National Chapter (though the Provincial Chapter of Manitoba has sent one each year since its inception.) The were as follows:

Ontario, 83.  
British Columbia, 19.  
Manitoba, 13.  
Saskatchewan, 10.  
Alberta, Newbrunswick, Nova Scotia, 4 each.

In spite of this there was much dissatisfaction expressed—the names meant little to delegates who arrived one day and were **asked to choose their nominees and cast their votes before noon the next day.** Some of the delegates seemed to demand an L.O.D.E. "Who's Who?" How can we vote before we have time to know any one? What service have these women given? What qualifications do they hold for this trust? Are they thinking women; or wives of great men? Who can give the names of the independent Toronto women? What is the difference between a non-resident Councillor and any other member? These and other questions were bandied about while the ballots were being passed.

### **Cheese on Toast.**

The Manitoba resolution went like cheese on toast: "That the election of Councillors we held the second to the last day." Everyone smiled their approval, while one honest soul exclaimed: "We would have marked our ballots quite differently after four days' acquaintance."

### **Election of Forty Councillors.**

The election of the forty Councillors resulted in the most representative election on record: Toronto, 10; Ontario, 9; Quebec, 5; Manitoba, 3; British Columbia, 3; Saskatchewan, 3; New Brunswick, 2; Nova Scotia, 2; Alberta, Prince Edward Island, 0; Yukon, 0.

Note—Less Toronto women were elected than previously—A better general representation.

### **Manitoba Resolutions.**

Many Manitoba resolutions helped to mark progress by their discussion. Many passed, some were laid on the table for the consideration of the new constitution committee, and others lost.



(b) The election of Councillors will be held second to the last day.

(c) The election of officers will be held the last day.

(d) Chapters three months organized prior to annual meetings only shall have votes.

(e) Regents of Junior Chapters shall be eighteen years of age, or older.

#### **Some Settled Points.**

(a) In future National officers' reports will come first instead of last on the agenda.

#### **Points Lost.**

(a) Re Credentials Committee.

(b) Re full complete printed report of annual meetings.

#### **Points for Consideration of New Constitution Committee.**

(a) That nominees of Primary and Municipal Chapters standing for office must be posted at headquarters two weeks prior to annual meeting; "headquarters" to mean in the Chapter's usual place of meeting.

(b) Individual members — that they be dispensed with altogether.

#### **The Appeal of France.**

Mme. Chase Casgrain's scheme with the suggestion from the National president that "it be made a memorial for our heroic dead."

(a) That Chapters should furnish huts built by the Government of France in devastated areas.

(b) Any individual member or Chapter giving \$200.00 should have name plate on door.

(c) Contributions be sent to Vice-President of the Agricultural Society of France.

Lady Pope, Ottawa, made a strong appeal against the scheme on the ground:

(a) Our chief duty is to win the war and meet its needs.

(b) The time to memorialize our sacred dead has not yet arrived.

(c) What gifts L.O.D.E. makes to France should be sent through already authorized channels.

Great interest centered around this debate. Lady Pope is a charming and forceful speaker. How could she help it, descended from two generations of Tachereau Judges. While the amendment to Lady Pope's resolution carried, it was satisfactory to her, and the Order owes much for her courage in championing what she sincerely felt to be best for the good of

the Order. A full report of the speeches of the President and Lady Pope, with the resolution and amendment, will be duly sent to all chapters.

#### **After-War Problems.**

War problems are a mere bagatelle compared with the after-war problems, which it will be ours to face, nay, more, to help solve. With the vote given to us by the Dominion Government we cannot step aside and lay the responsibility on the men. We must think; we must learn to decide, to make a stand on the questions which the new conditions are bringing to us. We must act. The world needs leaders; Canada needs leaders, men and women who think, decide and act—"Heart within and God o'erhead."

The women are learning, the recent meeting proved the fact. What some were pleased to call a "revolutionary spirit" which prevailed was really an "evolutionary" one.

#### **Dominion Charter.**

The Dominion charter, duly signed by His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada in September, 1917, was not even mentioned by the President in her excellent address.

The meeting saw many new faces and heard new voices. The women of Canada feel a bond of kinship binds them in the I.O.D.E.

Among the familiar faces and voices this year in annual conference I recall Mrs. P. D. Crearer, of Hamilton; Mrs. A. W. Macdougald, Montreal; Mrs. D. D. Spence, Calgary; Mrs. Van-Wart, Fredericton; Mrs. Hasell, Victoria; Mrs. Ira McKay, Saskatoon; Mrs. Sexton, Halifax; Mrs. John A. Stewart, Perth; Mrs. McMurchy, Mrs. Hamilton Burns, Miss Boulton, Toronto; these women in years past have done much for the Order in its annual meeting and are looked on today as among those who are, by their word and work, helping to shape the destinies of Canada.

Among the new faces in our Order's annual session there comes the vision of Lady Pope, Lady Kingsmill, Ottawa; Mrs. R. R. Morgan, Saskatoon; Mrs. Finnis, Quebec; Mrs. Henry Joseph, Montreal; Mrs. Hodgson, Quebec; Mrs. Fred Smith, Edmonton; Mrs. Burton, Yukon, and others whose words added so much to the deliberations.

We missed Mrs. R. S. Wilson and Mrs. Murray Clark, Toronto, and Mrs. Wm. Martin, Regina, illness having prevented attendance. The next annual meeting will be held in Montreal.

#### **Appreciation.**

If the National Officers will graciously accept the loving service and sacrifice of the Daughters of Empire of Canada, offered through their guardian hands freely to their God, on the altar of their country, as an appreciation of their stewardship, they will be satisfied.

